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HB 125 GENERALLY REVISE INSURANCE AND SECURITIES LAWS

Section 11 Amends MCA 33-22-2006

Revises subsection (1)(c) to remove the specific reference to delinquent state "income" tax liability because of the ambiguity in current law.

Section 12 Amends MCA 33-22-2008

Revises subsections (1) and (5) to make the application deadlines for Insure Montana coincide more closely with the renewal of the coverage and to clarify that the application deadline for the tax credit participants will be the end of the calendar year. Additionally, the new language in subsection (8) is in regard to disclosure of personal information to Montana DPHHS for the purpose of determining eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP and requiring that the personal information be kept confidential. This will focus the resources of Insure Montana to serve individuals who are ineligible for Medicaid or CHIP.

Section 13 Amends MCA 33-28-102

Revises subsection (1)(e) to remove the limitation that protected cell captive insurers may only insure risks of its "participant affiliated company and controlled unaffiliated business entities" to make it consistent with the definition in MCA 33-28-101(25) that it insures the risks of any "participant."

Section 14 Amends MCA 33-28-107

Removes subsection (4)(b) allowing the Commissioner to waive the Risk-Based Capital report for captive risk retention groups to be consistent with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) financial solvency examination standards.

Section 15 Amends MCA 33-28-108

Revises subsection (1) to require the Commissioner to examine captive insurance companies every 5 years instead of every 3 years to be consistent with the 5 year examination period for other domestic insurers.

Section 16 Amends MCA 33-28-207

Revises subsection (1) to make the Commissioner's general powers and duties and the insurance company holding system laws applicable to captive insurance companies. Revises subsection (1)(f) to allow pure captive insurance companies to voluntarily dissolve and liquidate upon prior notice to and approval of the Commissioner. Adds subsection (4) regarding laws applicable to captive risk retention groups including the application of the actuarial opinion regarding reserves and risk-based capital reporting requirements to be consistent with the requirements for other domestic insurers and with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) financial solvency examination standards.

Section 17 Repeals MCA 33-2-609, regulating excess deposits by insurers to discontinue regulating them. Repeals MCA 33-22-103, imposing criminal penalties on health insurers for noncompliance with certain provisions of the Montana Insurance Code because other penalties exist already in the Insurance Code.

Section 18 Severability clause

If any part of the bill is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect.

Section 19 Effective upon passage and approval

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HB 125 is the housekeeping bill for the Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance that generally updates language in the insurance and securities laws in Montana.

Sections 1 & 2 Amends MCA 15-30-2368 & Amends MCA 15-31-130

Changes a reference in the small business health insurance tax credit statute from a specific section in the purchasing pool and tax credit program to a general reference because any future amendments to the program will not require future amendments to the cross-references in current law.

Section 3 Amends MCA 30-10-308

Revises the time for judicial review of a Commissioner's order regarding securities from 60 days to 30 days to make the time for judicial review consistent with the 30 days in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 4 Amends MCA 33-1-311

Adds "another state agency" to the list of government entities that provide information or documents that the Commissioner must keep confidential if the entity providing the information or document also keeps it confidential. This is codifying current practice to ensure confidential information remains confidential.

Section 5 Amends MCA 33-2-601

Deletes subsection (4) regarding excess deposits by insurers to discontinue regulating excess deposits. This change is the result of an audit done by the Legislative Audit Division.

Section 6 Amends MCA 33-2-1903

Requires all domestic insurers, including domestic captive risk retention groups, to provide Risk-Based Capital reports to the Commissioner to be consistent with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) financial solvency examination standards.

Section 7 Amends MCA 33-2-1904

Requires a trend test for Risk-Based Capital reporting for all property and casualty insurers to be consistent with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) financial solvency examination standards.

Section 8 Amends MCA 33-18-605

Adds a definition of the previously undefined term "credit score" in subsection (1)(h) to the defined terms "credit report or insurance score" in the list of factors that cannot be used to negatively impact consumers in regard to personal insurance.

Section 9 Amends MCA 33-22-2002

Revises the definition of "related employers" in subsection (11) used for eligibility determination to Insure Montana by removing the reference to the Internal Revenue Code and replacing it with language that already exists in the Insurance Code. This is more friendly to Montana's small businesses and is the result of an audit by the Legislative Audit Division.

Section 10 Amends MCA 33-22-2004

Revise subsections (1)(c) and (1)(d) to clarify that priority will be given upon timely reapplication by employer participants in Insure Montana for premium assistance and premium incentive payments and that those reapplying late will be added to the waiting list, instead of having to wait a full year to reapply. This is more friendly to Montana's small businesses and removes problems with the current October 31 deadline.